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BERLIN PEOPLE SHROUDED IN DEEP GLOOM

Sweethearts Hit Only Cheerful Note Seen in Once Gay Capital

BERLIN, Feb. 1.—Here is a city of pure and unadulterated gloom, all gloomy.

Nobody, be he rich or poor, is normally cheerful. The rich speculator in foreign exchange, riding in his automobile or dining in state at a fashionable restaurant, worries about the rate of exchange. And with the mark bounding downhill, day after day, he has something to worry about. The salaried man, on his way to work, or homeward bound to a cold, ill-lighted home and scant meal, worries about the high cost of living and whether his next raise will meet the increased cost of the necessities of life.

The foreigners worry whether to exchange their foreign money today or wait until tomorrow, when the mark probably will have fallen still further.

The way the cost of living goes up is something frightful to behold. During the h. c. l. went up 102.4 per cent. And as wages in general didn't rise 100 per cent, life became a lot more difficult for the average Berliner.

Gay Sweethearts

The only people in this great, grim city who are genuinely cheerful are the sweethearts. Somehow or other they manage to stay happy. They stand out like gay splashes on a drab gray background.

But their happiness only accentuates the prevailing gloom. A boy stands indifferently on a street corner. His face is stolid, without the slightest sign of expectancy. He just waits.

A girl emerges from the crowd—the girl for whom he has been waiting. He brightens up as she slips her arm through his, and off they go like a pair of Siamese twins—both as cheerful as can be.

A boy and a girl came into an in-expensive restaurant frequented by members of the former aristocracy. She had on a new dress—an almost wanton luxury these days—and it was plainly to be seen that she was as proud of the dress as of the boy. The boy, naturally, was tickled silly over the girl. They took a table, had half a bottle of wine and a few sandwiches, both dizzy with happiness.

They were the only cheerful people in the room.

The German business man leads a hard life. He makes money, which, to be sure, does something to take the curse off the situation, but he has as hard a time as the vaudeville entertainer who balances himself on a ladder and juggles five balls.

Dollar Is Standard

Merchandise has to be paid for in advance—in sound foreign currency—and getting an order filled is not easy, due to the scarcity of raw materials. Selling prices are made in terms of German marks, and a watchful eye has to be kept on the ever declining rate of exchange.

Some merchants who deal largely with foreigners have taken the dollar as their standard, and before making a sale, calculate the price in marks on a dollar basis. These merchants are expensive people to deal with.

So both buyer and seller have an interesting time, and it's no wonder that everyone is gloomy.

The only time that anything approaching general cheerfulness is to be seen in the crowds on the street is about the time the cafes close, and the more affluent Germans, that is to say those able to afford the price of two or three beers, start for home, their many difficulties temporarily forgotten.

Another thing needed in this country is less perfume from the scent bottle and more from farm fertilizer.

We are still of the opinion that if most kings were not kings they'd either be hauling ashes or peddling lead pencils.

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May Get Oil In Palos Verdes Hills

The possibility of developing another great oil field within striking distance of Los Angeles is growing with every turn of the rotary drill in Palos Verdes No. 1 which recently was reported down 3249 feet, and with many preliminary indications of bringing in a big well and proving up a heretofore unexploited section.

The well is a wildcat, located by Geologist Seth Hardison, who has successfully cajoled Mother Earth into whispering her secrets in many places from the shadows of the Alleghenies in Pennsylvania to the Pacific coast. Mr. Hardison has high expectations of the lonely derrick nestled in the Palos Verdes hills in the Panhandle back of Wilmington, and not far from the refinery of the Union Oil company.

The work is being done by the Orange County Drilling company, and those in charge assert that the indications from day to day are of the most favorable character, and that unless the usual signs fail in later materialization an oil reservoir will be tapped.

Aside from the predictions made by oil men who have followed the log of the well is the asserted fact that its progress has been almost identical with that of the Signal Hill gushers, and the probability is said to be promising that the new well will show a continuation of that wonderful field, or falling this of the Redondo field only a few miles away in another direction.

The drill is already in oil sand, has passed through two hardpan formations and is now making good progress in brown shale, all following, as indicated, the Signal Hill development so closely as to make them almost identical.

Work has been going forward upon this well without any blare of trumpets and remarkably fast progress has been made since it was spudded in last November. The possibilities behind the drill, should the wildcat strike the precious fluid, are staggering in their potential magnitude.

For one thing, oil men say, at least 400 acres of choice territory, ideally located for transportation and refining, would be automatically proved up, and the entire 16,000 acres of the Palos Verdes project would become fair hunting ground for geological experimentation.

With the Union Oil plant at the very edge of the panhandle, and the great Standard Oil refinery a few miles away at El Segundo, a spirited rivalry for possession of the oil nugget would almost certainly result, a rivalry which would necessarily redound to the benefit of the certificate holders in the Palos Verdes.

Best Butter From Grass-Fed Cows

"Whatever you do, keep Bossy out of the onion patch," states N. Johanson of the laboratories of the E. L. Thomason Creamery of Los Angeles, makers of Clover Glen butter. "For you will notice a very decided oniony taste and odor in the milk the next day." Mr. Johanson has found by careful experimentation that certain types of weed and grasses and hay have a very detrimental effect on milk, cream and butter when herds are allowed to feed on them. There are several varieties of weeds that grow extensively in this district, and although they are very similar to grass in appearance have a very unpleasant effect on cream and butter. Furthermore, Mr. Johanson finds that it is practically impossible to remove the taste or odor from such cream or even to work it into butter of the best quality. Farmers throughout this part of the state should watch carefully that no such contaminable material gets into the feed of their herds.

Green grass has been found to be the choicest feed for the production of the best milk, cream and butter. It has none of the tastelessness of dry hay fed herds, and is less apt to contain objectionable tastes or odors as cows will not eat such where there is an abundance of green grass available. Herds fed exclusively on green grass produce uniformly good milk and cream that is unusually adaptable to the making of the best grades of butter. That is why agriculturists with a sensitive taste can detect a very noticeable difference between butter churned in the springtime and that churned in the fall. New Zealand butter, known throughout the world for its quality, is entirely a grass fed butter.

The E. L. Thomason Creamery has created somewhat of an innovation in the southland by inaugurating a new policy of having all their raw cream and milk shipped in refrigerator cars from the extreme northern part of the state where the herds are fed exclusively on green grass the year around. They find that butter made from grass fed cows not only tastes better but has a better texture, spreads easier, is sweeter and stays fresh longer.

Some autos don't cost five dollars a year for repairs and some are owned by men with better memories.



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